

Security 3

OGC HAS REVIEWED.

27 August 1953

Memorandum for: Assistant Director/00

From: General Counsel

Subject: Contact with Members of Congress
and State Officials.

1. Reference is made to the memorandum dated 21 August 1953 to me from the Chief of the Contact Division requesting approval to contact certain Members of Congress and Governor Langlie of Washington.

2. We sympathize with what the Chief [REDACTED] wishes to do in connection with this request, and are aware of the extensive personal contacts of himself and his staff; however, relations with Congress, except for routine matters, are for personal handling by the Director, and, as you are well aware, are of a most subtle nature. Normally, therefore, they must be handled in Washington. On rare occasions field offices will be requested to take some action under specific instructions.

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3. The present request has been discussed with the Director's office, and it is felt that approval cannot be granted. However, the case of Governor Langlie has special considerations, which are now being taken up and on which we will try to give you advice in the near future. In spite of this disapproval, we believe [REDACTED] and others who submit such inquiries should be thanked for the information and for their interest in this matter.

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4. In view of the fact that at least two of your stations have raised the general question of contacts with Members of Congress and State officials, it is suggested that consideration be given to sending a notice on the subject to your stations. Attached is a proposed text of such a notice for your consideration.

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5. It is requested that this office (Att.: Legislative Counsel) be furnished with a copy of all material to and from your stations bearing on Congressional matters.

Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

OGC:LRH/blc

Orig. & 1 - Add.(w/memo fr Contact Division)

1 - Inspector General

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1. We have recently received requests from the field to approach Members of Congress and senior officials of State governments.
2. The decision to contact Members of Congress on CIA matters is made by the Director in each case. The channel is the Office of the General Counsel, and such contacts are normally maintained in Washington. If you should receive information that Members of Congress desire to furnish intelligence information of interest to CIA, or have complaints or questions regarding CIA, or in the event contact is made with a field office by a Member of Congress for the purpose of providing or requesting information of any nature, the information or query should be respectfully received and forwarded to Chief, Contact Division, on a priority basis, for the attention of Legislative Counsel. Appropriate guidance as to desired action will then be issued. If information is received concerning prospective trips abroad by Members of Congress, it should be referred to the Legislative Counsel for staff action so that the Director can determine the advisability of briefing or debriefing.
3. There is no apparent need to brief State government officials on the functions of CIA. However, if information is received concerning prospective trips abroad by senior State officials, the Contact Division should be advised so that a determination can be made on the advisability of briefing or debriefing.
4. The procedure outlined in this notice is intended to apply only to contacts pertaining to Agency business or interests and is in no way intended to limit social association with these officials.

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